

ANA HAPPENINGS

Volume 6, Issue 2

Fall/Winter 2008

Our Mission

Angel Names Association is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3), charitable organization dedicated to assisting families of stillborn children through programs designed to provide financial assistance for end-of-life expenses and counseling services, and funding for stillbirth research.

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Memorial Walk Nets \$11,000

More than 250 people attended ANA's third annual Memorial Walk at the Saratoga Spa State Park on Saturday, October 18, 2008. Families, friends, coworkers and healthcare providers walked together on what was a chilly but sunny fall day, to remember babies whose lives had touched theirs.

Though the event continues to be free, the majority of attendees this year chose to fundraise in support of ANA's mission. Many donated hundreds of dollars they had obtained in pledges. "It was touching," said Bernice McLellan, ANA Vice President. "Families contributed without seeking recognition; they simply wanted to make a difference."

And make a difference they have, according to Michelle Mosca, ANA co-

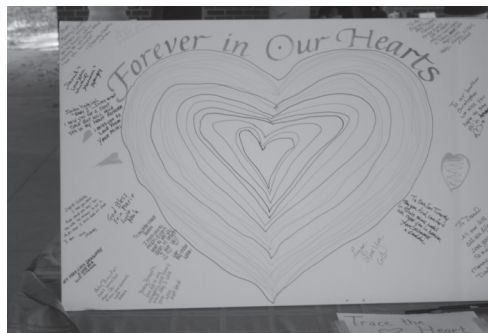
founder and president. "We receive several requests for help each month from families across the country, and

experienced the tragedy of pregnancy loss and infant death are often the strongest supporters of ANA's mission.

"Their contributions in their children's memory are making a difference in so many lives," said Mosca.

Azure Verdi, whose daughter Olivia was stillborn in May, attended the walk with her family. Friends, family and coworkers supported Verdi by contributing to the walk. "The walk was a very humbling experience," said Verdi. "It gave our family a day to celebrate our daughter's birth and keep her memory alive."

"The walk was beneficial for our family members," added Bonnie Waldron, whose nephew, Logan, was stillborn in 2007. Waldron was one of many who traveled from



Attendees left messages and traced hearts in memory of their loved ones.

the average request is for more than \$1,000," said Mosca. ANA closely regulates the amount of assistance it provides. Still, because of the enormous need and the fact that so few organizations exist to help these families, resources can be depleted in a very short period of time.

Families who have

Donating on a Shoestring

At a time when the economy is struggling and the availability of disposable income is dwindling, it seems we are all trying to live on a "shoestring" budget. Yet, many have found resourceful ways to contribute to ANA.

Professionals have donated their time, and business owners have offered to donate a portion of their sales to ANA. The internet offers

opportunities to fundraise without taking from your personal income and with only a simple click of the mouse (see "Making a Difference Online" and "Surfing" for ANA).

Following are opportunities for you to help ANA pursue its mission. As you anticipate the holidays and events of the upcoming year, and consider the gifts you wish to purchase for or in memory of loved ones, know

that your purchases can also benefit ANA.

Capital District Fundraiser

Ambiance Salon and Day Spa Cut-a-thon

On Sunday, February 8, 2009, from noon until 4:00 p.m., the Ambiance Salon and Day Spa at 635 New Loudon Road in Latham, NY, will be hosting

Donating on a Shoestring, cont'd.

a "cut-a-thon" to benefit ANA.

The salon, which is usually closed on Sundays, will be open specifically for this event and will be donating 100% of the day's proceeds to ANA.

The cut-a-thon is in memory of Logan Paul Janiszewski, nephew of Ambiance stylist Emily Vandervoort.

Logan was stillborn in March of 2007 at 34 weeks gestation. Emily and her family have participated in ANA's Memorial Walk for the last two years, and her sister Rachel was recently elected to ANA's Board of Directors.

"Emily has been a tremendous support to me, by being there for me emotionally and sharing Logan's story in the hopes of increasing stillbirth awareness," said Logan's mother, Rachel.

Emily brought the idea of a cut-a-thon to her sister as a way to remember Logan and to raise money to help in the fight to end stillbirth, so that other families will not have to endure the trauma of losing a child.

"I am so glad to have the chance to tell people about Logan, ANA, and the importance of helping families who face stillbirth," said Emily.

To participate in the cut-a-thon, call the salon at 518-782-7560 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins will be welcome the day of the event but there will be limited time slots so appointments are recommended.

Hudson Valley & Online Fundraiser

Tenderhawk, Inc. is a family owned company founded and incorporated in 2007 by Kristen Clay Casey, following the stillbirth of her nephew, Aidan.

Tenderhawk is local to New York's scenic Hudson Valley. It was founded on the guiding principles of providing better value with a superior customer experience while giving back to the community.

Kristen indicates that her new business has provided opportunities to share Aidan's story. "Because we are a new company we still get asked who we are and what we are about. When asked, we kindly tell our story of Aidan and how he is at the heart of what we are doing. We then take some comfort in believing they will at times think of him, and hence honor his life."

In late November, Tenderhawk announced its intent to partner with Angel Names Association. In order to raise funds in support of ANA's mission, Tenderhawk will donate to ANA 10% of the proceeds earned through the end of 2008. "Any successful business has something more than just money that it's after," said Kristen. "There has to be a cause that it fights for or a passion that burns to keep

the business going. For us, the cause and passion were obvious. We needed to help support families just like ours;

You Can Help!

Tenderhawk, Inc.
Visit www.tenderhawk.com today!
10% of purchases made now through the end of 2008 will be donated to ANA.

Ambiance Salon and Day Spa
Sunday, 2/9/09
Visit the salon between noon and 4:00 p.m.
100% of the day's proceeds will be donated to ANA!
Call 518-782-7560

those recently devastated by the unexpected loss of a child at the threshold of birth. Angel Names has made this their mission and is why we are very excited to be involved with them."

According to Kristen, Tenderhawk "brings to market some of the finest quality items from

around the world." Tenderhawk's product line includes quality toys and games for all ages and premier Himalayan Salt Crystal Lamps (a natural air purifier) for your home.

To shop Tenderhawk, simply visit www.tenderhawk.com or contact them at 914.204.7225. To ensure that your donation goes directly to Angel Names Association, be sure to mention ANA in the comments section or inform the sales associate during check-out.

Legislative Updates

The Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth (CBRS) bill made its way through the 2008 legislative session with approval from the Senate House, only to be held at the 11th hour in the Assembly on the last day of session.

"We had received assurance from Speaker Sheldon Silver only weeks earlier that our bill would move to the Assembly Floor for a vote," said Paige Ricci, leader of Still Parents NY, a network of bereaved parents.

"Unfortunately, one member of the Assembly - Ms. Helene Weinstein (D-Kings) - had enough power and influence to hold the bill at the last moment," remarked Ricci. Weinstein's office has refused to discuss her reasons for not supporting this bill, which would raise awareness of stillbirth and help

grieving families, the majority of which live in her district.

The CBRS bill will not change Public Health Law, only grant parents the *option* of receiving a Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth to acknowledge the birth process they endured.

Prior to 1939, both birth and death certificates were issued to parents of stillborn babies in New York State. When a new fetal death certificate was developed, NY discontinued issuing the birth certificate in anticipation that the new certificate would allow more information to be captured in and would thus help prevent stillbirth.

"Parent and family support is essential to the passage of the CBRS Bill in 2009."
Paige Ricci,
Still Parents NY

Ricci states that Still Parents NY will continue to work on the passage of the bill in the 2009 legislative session. Though the group has worked vigorously to educate legislators about the bill's purpose, there is still much work to be done.

"We have made a lot of progress since taking up this important piece of legislation in early 2007. We'll need more parents and families support if this bill is going pass in 2009." said Ricci.

To read about the bill's progress or inquire on how you can help, visit www.CBRSbill.blogspot.com.

Still Parents Luncheon Set for May 2009

ANA held its first annual Still Parents Luncheon on May 18, 2008 at LT's Grill in Niskayuna. ANA's goal was to honor those who parented their children the best they know how, the only way they could, for as long as they were able. It was scheduled in between Mother's and Father's Day, which are traditionally difficult days for bereaved parents.

Tom and Tara Coppola, and LJ Goldstock, owners of LT's Grill, generously donated their chef and wait staff. This helped maintain costs so the luncheon would be affordable for patrons.

Attendees shared an intimate lunch in the company of family, friends and new acquaintances who understood the importance of recognizing their parenthood. Forget-Me-Not seed packets donned with a "Still Parents" poem

and tied with ribbon were given to each family member.

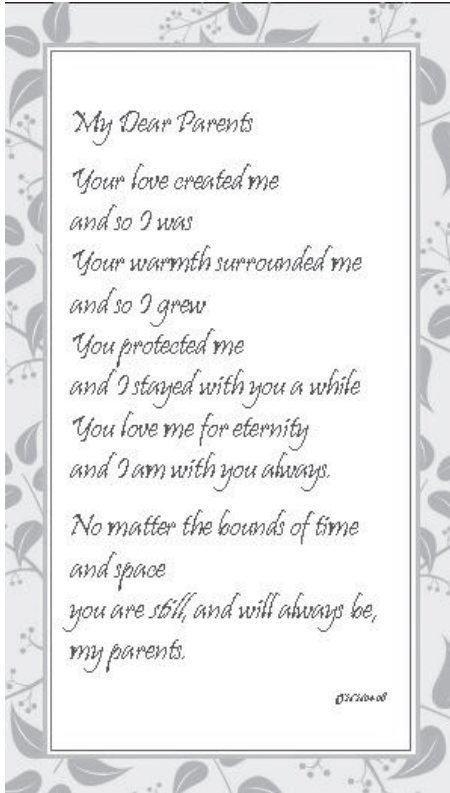
The luncheon also included a silent auction featuring items donated by individuals and businesses throughout New York State. Items ranged from home décor to gift baskets, flowers, healthcare products and Chanel perfume. Participants who won the auction items of their choice were thrilled to have gotten such great deals (most obtained the items for a fraction of their retail cost) and to have helped support ANA's programs at the same time.

"It really was a lovely, memorable event," remarked Stacy, who attended in

memory of her son, stillborn in 2007. "I

didn't need any fanfare, just the acknowledgment of having been a mother to all three of my children, not just the two who are still with me."

The 2009 Still Parents Luncheon is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 24th, between Mother's Day and Father's Day, at a location near Saratoga Springs. Details will be announced via ANA's website (www.angelnames.org) as the event nears.



Volunteer Paige Ricci helps Peg Mangan register for the luncheon.

To join ANA volunteers in planning the luncheon, contact Michelle Mosca at mgmosca@msn.com or 518-654-2411.

Chianti II Ristorante Names ANA One of "Twelve"

On Monday, October 12, 2009, those who dine at Chianti II Ristorante in Saratoga Springs, NY, may designate 30% of their bill to benefit Angel Names Association.

This fundraising effort is made possible by Chianti's owner David Zecchini, who created "Twelve," a monthly fundraising dinner program to benefit area nonprofit organizations. The program enables the restaurant's guests who dine on the 12th day of each month to allocate 30% of their bill (before tax and tip) to the not-for-profit designated for that month.

According to Nancy Bambara, Director of Operations at Chianti II Ristorante, the "Twelve" program is named after a rare and important bronze panel at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. The bronze panel is the 12th panel of the holy door's "16 lessons of Christ."

When guests arrive on October 12, 2009, a sign will post Angel Names Association's name and mission, informing guests that ANA will be the evening's beneficiary. Servers will also notify guests about the "Twelve" program and Angel Names Association.

Guests will need to write "Angel Names Association" at the top of their bill and place their receipt into the "bronze bucket".

ANA had requested consideration for the program and hoped to be featured during the month of October to coincide with National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Month.

October 12, 2009
Chianti II Ristorante
Saratoga Springs, NY
Dine at Chianti's, write
"ANA" on your bill and
Chianti will donate 30% of
your paid bill to ANA!

Although October was named Pregnancy and Infant Loss Month several years ago by then-President Ronald Reagan, it has received less than the desired level of media attention.

"We read about so many other awareness issues in October, but this one tends to get swept under the carpet," said Michelle Mosca, ANA Cofounder. "Hopefully this event will bring much-needed attention to the issue of pregnancy loss and infant death," said Mosca.

In addition to raising money to support ANA's mission, the "Twelve" program may also serve to increase community awareness about stillbirth and the programs ANA provides gratis to the local community and across the country.

Making a Difference Online

Opportunities for fundraising online abound, and many have chosen to raise money for ANA without taking away from their own resources. Websites offer opportunities for families to share their stories and raise money at the same time. Others enable you to fundraise for ANA by simply surfing the internet.

Firstgiving.org

Bereaved parents Danielle and Robert MacLeod discovered Firstgiving.org when trying to fundraise for ANA's Memorial Walk.

"As the walk drew closer, I knew that I wanted to contribute as much as I could," said Danielle. While researching different ways to fundraise, Danielle read about the success of online fundraising and decided to give it a try.

"I thought that in this high-tech world we live in, it would be a good way to mobilize my online network to raise money for a cause that is so important to me," said Danielle.

The online fundraising tool enabled them to design a website and raise money for ANA in memory of their son, Anthony, stillborn on January 11, 2008.

"I liked that I could add my son's name to the website address (www.firstgiving.com/anthonymacleod), add photos, and create a personal message to make it meaningful to me, and more welcoming for visitors," said Dan-

ielle. "And," she added, "it was easy to set up!"

After designing her webpage, Danielle emailed the link to family, friends and colleagues; and added it to her social networking sites (MySpace, Facebook, etc.) with a widget/fundraising badge.

Friends loved the idea and joined in, some setting up their own web pages. Altogether they have raised more than \$1,200 to support ANA's mission.

Those who donated indicated they felt they were able to make an easy, secure, online credit card transaction, knowing that their donation would be sent directly to ANA, minus a small (7%) processing fee.

Danielle and Robert plan to use the site again. "I look forward to the Angel Names Association Memorial Walk next year, and to using Firstgiving again,"

said Danielle. "It enabled me to fundraise in a more comfortable and user-friendly way."

To set up your own website to raise money for ANA, go to www.firstgiving.com and click on "get started."

SixDegrees.org

Six Degrees was founded by actor Kevin Bacon on the premise that each of us are connected to another person through six or fewer relationships, and that these relationships can be used to accomplish a

greater good. Hosted by the nonprofit Network for Good, Six Degrees enables people to raise money for ANA by creating a fundraising badge, or "widget," that can be shared with others via email, social networking sites, blogs and websites. For more information, visit www.sixdegrees.org.

NetworkforGood.com

The Network for Good offers a website where you can donate to ANA and have all your donation records stored and accessible at any time. Their website is safe, secure and meets the BBB Wise Giving Alliance standards for charity accountability.

Donations made through www.networkforgood.org go directly to the Network for Good Donor Advised fund. Network for Good re-grants the donation funds to ANA, minus a 4.75% processing fee. Network for Good mails a check directly to ANA on the 15th of each month.

Some of ANA's donors have set up recurring donations in an effort to spread their donation over time. Lisa Adamo, whose cousin Nicholas was stillborn, donates a small amount of money per month, all year long. "It doesn't seem like much each month, but it's within my budget and by year's end I've contributed a great deal more than I would have been able to give at once."

To make a one-time or recurring donation, visit www.networkforgood.com.



Anthony MacLeod's picture is featured on his Firstgiving site along with his story, a link to more photos, and information about ANA.

ANA-Supported Stillbirth Research to Continue

The ANA Board of Directors has extended its 2008 research grant to Dr. Katherine Gold, a physician and researcher at the University of Michigan. This extension will enable her to continue her study entitled "Medical Management of Stillbirth" into 2009.

"ANA's funding has helped us make great strides in data collection over the last year," said Dr. Gold.

The study is evaluating medical data for women with stillbirths compared with women with live births.

"No existing data set like this is

known to exist in the United States, little is known about medical risks and care of labor and delivery for women with stillbirth, and virtually nothing is known about disparities in care," asserts Dr. Gold.

The study is being conducted at two inner-city university-affiliated hospitals in Detroit, MI, and a tertiary university hospital in Ann Arbor. The three hospitals together serve a diverse population based on race, ethnicity, and economic status.

Dr. Gold plans to continue data

collection through May 2009. Starting in the summer of 2009 she will begin linking the clinical data to sets of laboratory results, State of Michigan fetal death certificates, and geographical data for environmental risk factors. She will then run a statistical analysis of the data and report on the results.

"I am very grateful for ANA's assistance in collecting this important data on stillbirth," said Dr. Gold. "We could not possibly have obtained as much data as we have without this assistance."

'Surfing' for ANA

Online searches, or 'surfing,' and online shopping malls give people of all income levels the ability to donate to their favorite charity. In some cases, online searches are all it takes to generate income for the charity of your choice.

GoodSearch.com

GoodSearch is a Yahoo!-powered search engine that gives 50% of its advertising-generated income to charities designated by its users. That amounts to an average of one cent per search, and you don't have to buy a thing. Use it just as you would any search engine, and watch the donations add up!

Go to www.goodsearch.com and enter Angel Names Association as the charity you want to support. You do the searching, GoodSearch provides the donation.

GoodShop.com

GoodShop.com is GoodSearch's online

shopping mall, and host to more than 600 online stores. GoodShop.com will donate up to 37 percent of each purchase to your ANA! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting ANA.

Go to www.goodshop.com, designate Angel Names Association as the charity for which you wish to "goodshop," and the store(s) at which you make purchases will donate to ANA.

iGive.com

Online shoppers can give to their favorite

charities simply by searching their favorite stores from the iGive.com online charity mall start page. Simply select Angel Names Association, register with iGive and shop at brand name online stores through the iGive Mall, which is host to more than 735 online stores.

So, if you plan to do any shopping online — for the holidays and in the new year — begin your search from www.goodsearch.com, then visit iGive.com or GoodShop.com and start your shopping from their home pages. It will lead you to the same stores you planned to shop at anyway, and it will give you the chance to generate donations to ANA without costing you a penny. Now, all that time you spend 'surfing' online can benefit ANA too.

"Surf" online
and generate donations
for ANA.
www.GoodSearch.com

Shop online
where your favorite stores
donate a percentage of
your purchase to ANA
www.GoodShop.com
www.iGive.com

ANA Thanks Sponsors, Volunteers & Donors

"Thank you" to the following businesses and individuals whose generosity makes it possible for ANA to continue to assist families in need.

Below, and on the following pages, are the fall/winter 2008 donors and, in parentheses, the loved ones in whose memory they contributed.

ANA extends a sincere "thank you" to the sponsors who helped make the Memorial Walk possible.

Memorial Walk Sponsors

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Remembering Our Babies
Karen Ricci, Young Living
Suzanne Ricci, Arbonne
The Ripe Tomato
Rocco's Pizzeria
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Wheatfields
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Joan Esposito
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Dana Gresham
Tieah Gunnison
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Kari, Sarah & Theresa Turcotte
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Charri Welmaker
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Nicole Witham
Justin Burwell (EMS)
Gary Gibbins (EMS)



ANA Thanks Donors, cont'd.

Fall/Winter 2008 Donors

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 Joan Coughlin (Olivia Verdi)
 James & Caren Craig (Joey Craig)
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Sylvia & Frederick Culley
 Patti Cumming (Jaila Marie Harris)
 Erin Dates-McCarthy (Dylan McCarthy)
 Shane & Brandy Dawson (Nicholas Dawson)
 Joe Deamer (Jonas Desrosiers)
 Olga DeLorey (Logan Janiszewski)
 Jill DeMarce (Olivia Verdi)
 Lynn Deneault (Hallie & Marah Tourville)
 Ellen Denis (Baby Denis)
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— An additional thank you to all who support ANA's mission by contributing your time and talents to the association. Your participation is truly appreciated.

Note: Donations received after 12/15/08 will be acknowledged in the spring/summer 2009 newsletter.

ANGEL NAMES
Association

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*“Still Parents” Luncheon
May 2009*

Memorial Walk Nets \$11,000 (continued)

Plattsburgh to participate in the walk. “This event is a success in the healing process.”

Bonnie’s sister-in-law, Darlene, also attended the walk, both in memory of Logan and her own son who was still-born in 1972. “I was touched by the event and ceremony,” said Darlene. “It was the first time in the 36 years since my son’s stillbirth that anyone had spoken his name.”

Children are a growing presence at the walk, often attending in memory of a sibling who has died. They are given special “Sister of an Angel” or “Brother of an Angel” nametags to signify their relationship to the one being remembered that day, and activities are planned to help make the day enjoyable for them as well. This year’s activities included face painting, blowing “bubbles to Heaven,” and a craft table where they could make ornaments for, or in memory of, a loved one.

New this year was an option for attendees to have their child’s name hand-calligraphied on their Memorial Walk

shirt while they waited. Kendra Schrieber, an area calligraphy teacher who donated her services at the walk, worked quickly to complete as many shirts as possible. “It was a challenge to keep up with the demand,” said Kendra, whose daughter Lauren helped ready the shirts for waiting families. “Still, I truly enjoyed being able to do this for these families.”

Next to Kendra was a massage area where local masseuse Cordula Feurstack donated her services to Memorial Walk participants. “I have watched friends struggle with loss and infertility, and I wanted to do something in their honor and to help others who face the tragedy of infant death,” said

Cordula. Participants were able to enjoy a relaxing, heated massage in the pavilion.

Light refreshments were provided throughout the day and a pizza dinner in the afternoon. All were made possible by area businesses acknowledged on pages 4 and 5.

ANA extends its gratitude to the 2008 sponsors who helped make the Memorial Walk a success: National Quarry Services, Inc.; the Adirondack Trust Company; Balet Flowers & Design; Corinth Merchant Association, Inc.; GA Bove Fuels; KitKate Photography; Lansing Engineering; New Country Toyota of Clifton Park; Saratoga Hospital; The Seagroatts Companies; Linda and Michael Toohey; and West Vista Development Corporation.

Their contributions helped offset the cost of hosting the walk, maintaining 100% of all proceeds for ANA programs.



Anna, who walked in memory of her sister Elise, points to the Sponsors sign at the pavilion entrance. Her aunt, owner of KitKate Photography, helped sponsor the walk.